

MARVEL

12

LGY#779

OTTLEY • GATES • RATHBURN • GRACIA

WALKER



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HULK

HULK HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION. HIS ALTER EGO, BRUCE BANNER, HAS SPLIT THE HULK INTO THREE DISTINCT PARTS: THE HULK'S BODY HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A STARSHIP. BANNER'S PSYCHE PILOTS IT FROM WITHIN THE HULK'S MIND. AND THE HULK'S PSYCHE FUELS THE STARSHIP WITH HIS ANGER.

AFTER TRAVELING FAR INTO THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE, STARSHIP HULK CAME ACROSS A PLANET COATED IN GAMMA WITH A POPULATION OF HULKS. THEIR LEADER, MONOLITH, PROMISED HULK A PLACE HE COULD FINALLY CALL HOME--A CIVILIZATION FULL OF CREATURES WHO UNDERSTOOD HIM AND WHO WOULD NOT COWER IN FEAR AT HIS STRENGTH. AND THE FACT THAT THESE INHABITANTS WORSHIP THE HULK AS A GOD DOESN'T HURT EITHER.

ONCE HULK PROVED HIS MIGHT IN A ROUSING GAME OF GODBALL, EVEN THE MOST SKEPTICAL OF THE PLANET'S INHABITANTS ACCEPTED HIM. BUT PARADISE CAN'T HIDE BRUCE FROM THE DEMONS OF HIS PAST, AND MONOLITH REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT THE BOMBS SHE DISCOVERED IMPLANTED IN THE HULK'S BRAIN...

"HULK PLANET"

..... part four

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HULK created by **STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY**



I COULD
LIVE HERE...



...OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, VACATION
HERE, IF THE AVENGERS COULD SEE
ME NOW. SMILING. HAPPY. AMONG
BEINGS LIKE MYSELF.

OR MAYBE I'M IGNORING
MY DEEPER PROBLEMS.
DELUSION CAN BE A
COMFORTABLE STATE TO
BE IN. I THINK I'LL JUST
HANG ON TO THE DELUSION
FOR A BIT LONGER.



YOU'RE GETTING
ALONG QUITE NICELY HERE,
HULK. OF COURSE, YOU HAD
A HEAD START WITH ALREADY
BEING REVERED AS A GOD, BUT
NONETHELESS, MY PEOPLE
LOVE YOU EVEN
MORE NOW.



YOU EVEN
BEFRIENDED
BRUTAL, WHICH
CAN BE QUITE
HARD TO DO.



HA! SIMPLE
THINGS AMUSE
SIMPLE MINDS.



WELL, I'LL REFRAIN FROM LETTING BRUTAL KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF HIS MIND.

UNLESS THAT WAS DIRECTED AT ME AND MY PEOPLE AS WELL?

NO! NO, I'M SORRY. THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT.

REALLY, THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN...PLEASANT. YOU ALL HAVE MADE ME FEEL VERY WELCOME.



HULK, I...

...I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH. I'VE SEEN IT. AND IN A WAY...EXPERIENCED IT. THIS PLACE WON'T EVER BE AGAINST YOU LIKE SO MANY HAVE BEEN, WE WON'T EVER FIGHT YOU. WE UNDERSTAND YOU.

YOU...BELONG HERE...WITH US. NO MORE HIDING. YOU CAN LET THE BRUCE SIDE OF YOU GO--YOU ARE **HULK!** COME BE YOUR TRUE SELF HERE AND HELP ME RULE. COME BE OUR--

MONOLITH, I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING--

--BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION. BRUCE *IS* MY TRUE SELF. WHAT I AM IS...COMPLICATED. LISTEN, THERE'S HONESTLY NO POINT IN DISCUSSING IT FURTHER.

SIR, WHAT IS SHE SUGGESTING EXACTLY?



OUR ANNIHILATION, APPARENTLY.

UH, WHY ISN'T ADMIRAL BANNER AT HIS STATION? AND WHERE IS LIEUTENANT BANNER?



WE CAN HELP YOU RID YOURSELF OF THIS BRUCE PERSONA, WE CAN--

SERIOUSLY... I AM DONE WITH THIS CONVERSATION. MAYBE STICK WITH SIMPLE THINGS THAT YOUR SIMPLE MIND CAN UNDERSTAND.





I'LL BE BACK
IN AN HOUR.
FIND THE ADMIRAL
AND LIEUTENANT.
NOW.

YES,
SIR.



HELLO,
BRUCE, HOW
GOES IT?

LET'S GET
RIGHT DOWN TO
IT, SAMSON. I LIKE IT
HERE, I REALLY DO. BUT
I'M NO DUMMY, I
REALIZE &%%\$# COULD
HIT THE FAN AT
ANY MOMENT.



THAT...THING IS STILL THERE,
THAT...TITAN. HE'S WAITING
IN A CORNER OF MY MIND
SOMEWHERE.

I CAN FEEL
IT LOOMING, AS IF IT'S
GROWING. WAITING. I CAN'T
ALLOW HIM TO RESURFACE
AGAIN, BUT I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO CONTAIN HIM.

I...I ACTUALLY
DON'T KNOW HOW THIS
ALL WORKS. IF HE COMES
BACK...ON THIS PLANET...
IT'S ALL OVER.

I SHOULDN'T STAY
HERE, EVEN THOUGH
THEY WANT ME TO. EVEN
THOUGH I WANT TO. I
DON'T KNOW HOW
TO FIX THIS.

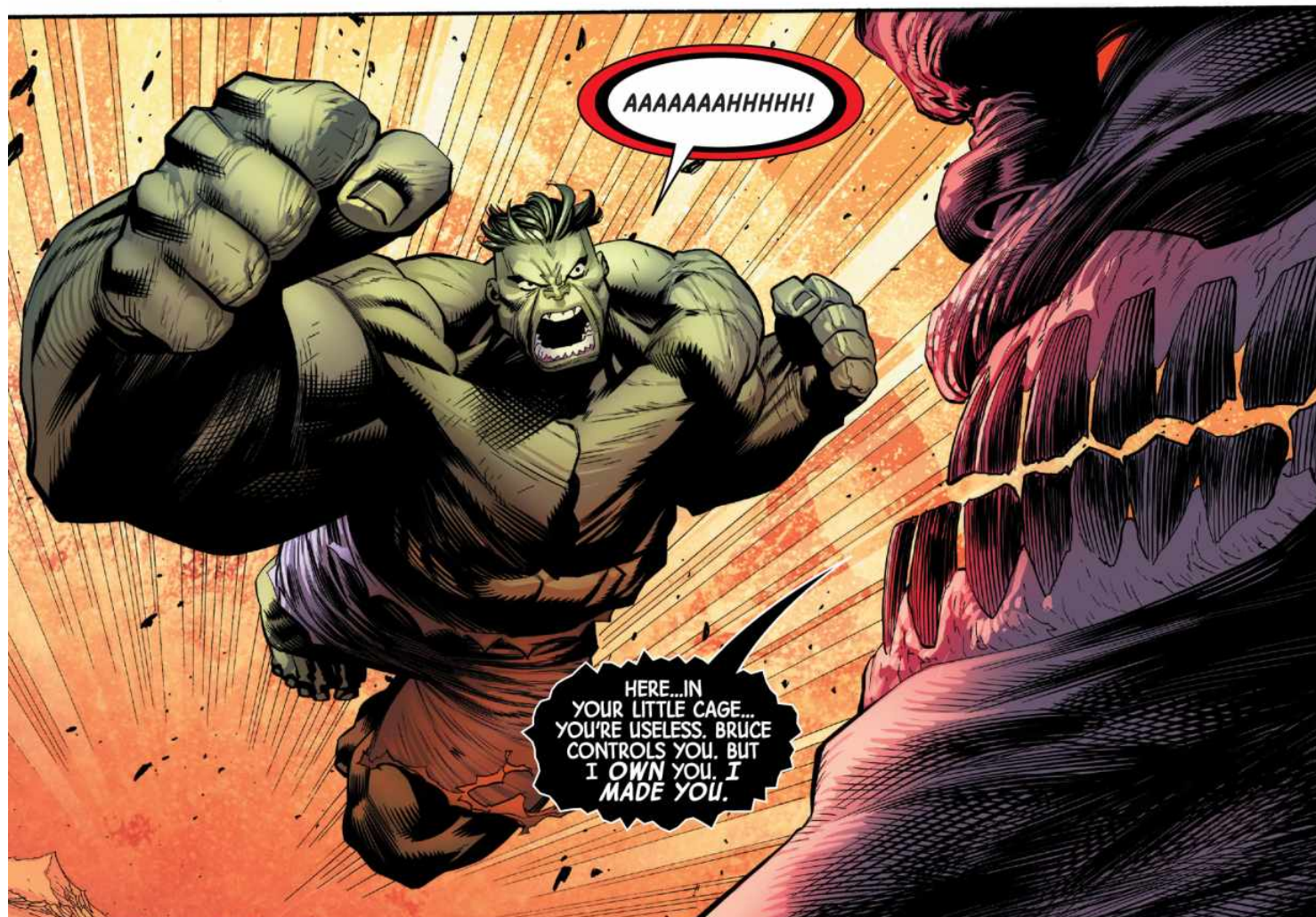


BRUCE...I'M
GOING TO SAY THIS
AS GENTLY AS I CAN,
JUST KNOW IT'S ONLY TO
OPEN US UP FOR A
CONVERSATION THAT
WE'VE NEEDED TO HAVE
FOR A WHILE NOW.

HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED THE
ALTERNATIVE AT ALL?
THE DISMANTLING OF
THE MIND PALACE,
GOING BACK TO
NORMAL?

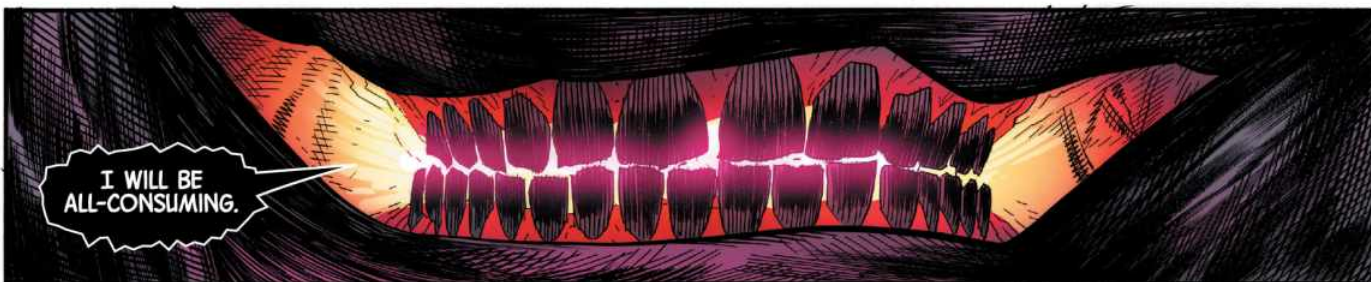


YOU'RE MINE
NOW. YOUR MIND.
YOUR BODY. AND
SOON ENOUGH,
YOUR WORLD.





I OWN EVERY PART OF BRUCE'S MIND. I INFEST EVERY CORNER OF HIS THOUGHTS—I AM COMING.



I WILL BE ALL-CONSUMING.



BRUCE, PAST TRAUMA CAN COME BACK IN WAVES, SOMETIMES YEARS LATER, AND IT CAN BECOME ALL-CONSUMING. IT COULD BE A SIGN THAT YOU'RE READY TO HEAL ON A DEEPER LEVEL.

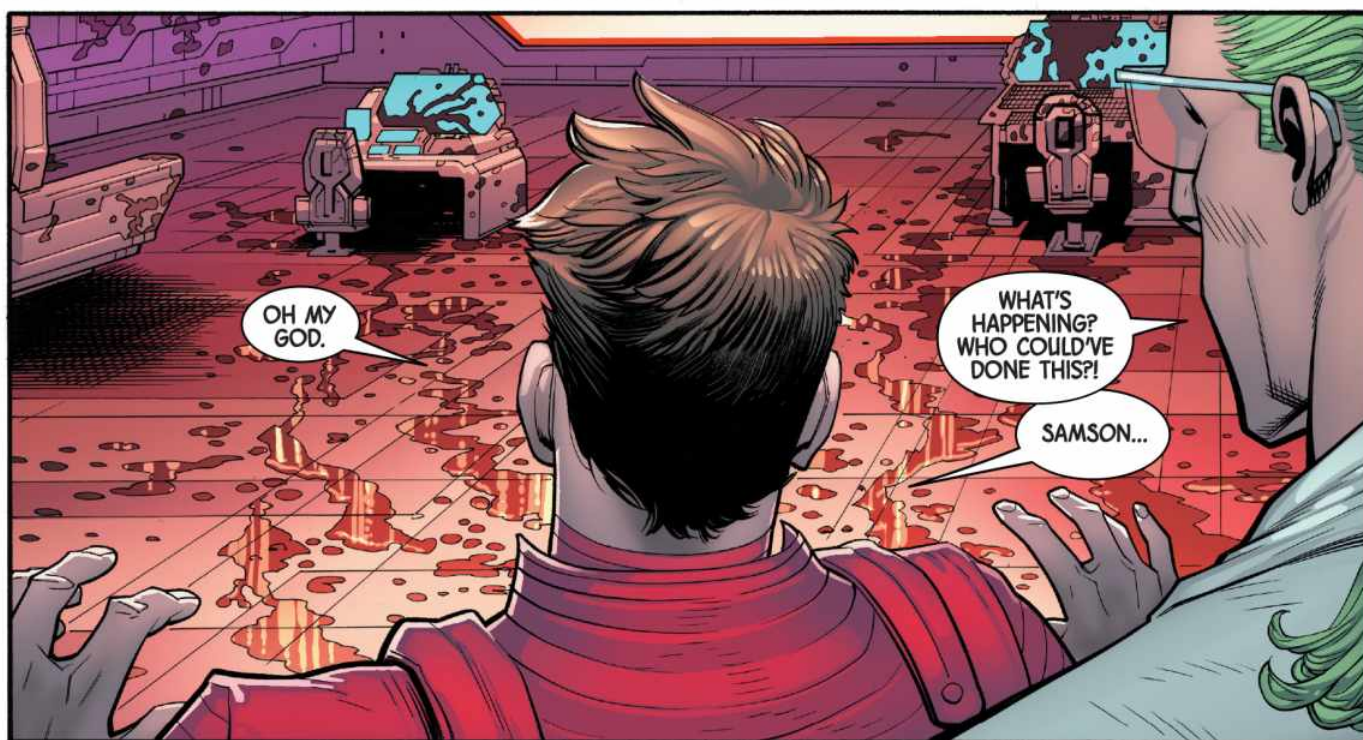


THIS MIGHT BE THE STRONGEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN. RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE FINALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO BE VULNERABLE. IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO FACE THIS DEMON.



I HAVE TO GO...I JUST... I CAN'T BE HERE.

BUT PLEASE, SAMSON, WALK WITH ME. I'LL ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THE THERAPY PROGRAM JUST THIS ONCE. SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AND I MIGHT NEED A HAND





...I HAVE
TO LEAVE THIS
PLANET NOW.

THIS FEELS
LIKE MORE THAN
JUST TRAUMA
RESPONSES.

TITAN IS HERE,
HE'S MESSING
WITH ME, HE'S
COMING. HE'S
TRYING TO GAIN
CONTROL AGAIN.

I CAN'T LET
HIM. I'M LITERALLY
LOSING MY MIND
HERE. I CAN'T PUT
THIS PLANET,
THESE PEOPLE, IN
DANGER.



KNOCKKNOCK

HULK, I
MUST SPEAK
WITH YOU.

MONOLITH,
I HONESTLY
CAN'T HAVE A
CONVERSATION
RIGHT NOW!



BRUCE, PLEASE STOP. GET TO A
SAFE PLACE, WE'LL MAKE SURE TITAN
DOESN'T EMERGE. REMEMBER--THIS
IS **YOUR** BRAIN, YOU'RE
IN CONTROL.

LISTEN, I KNOW I
PROMISED TO NOT ASK
YOU ABOUT YOUR MIND PALACE
AGAIN, BUT IF THIS GETS
TOO FAR...



...I NEED TO KNOW WHO
BUILT THIS. MAYBE I CAN GET
AHOOD OF WHOEVER HELPED
YOU CREATE IT, MAYBE THEY
CAN HELP.

AND WITH
THAT, I'M DONE. I
CAN HANDLE THIS
WITHOUT YOU FOR NOW.
GOODBYE, SAMSON, I'LL
CALL YOU AGAIN IF I
NEED YOUR HELP. **END
PROGRAM.**

BRUCE,
WAIT...!



PLEASE,
HULK...BRUCE...
PLEASE...LET ME
HELP YOU.

EVERYONE'S
VERSION OF
HELP IS WAY TOO
INTRUSIVE FOR ME. JUST
LEAVE. I'M GOING TO
HANDLE THIS ALONE.



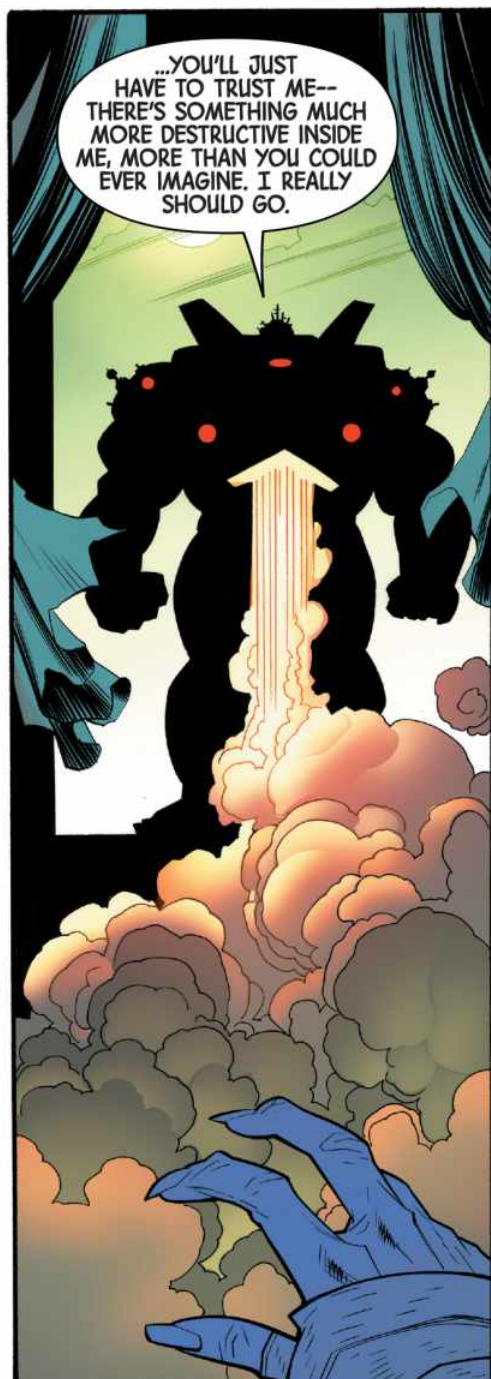


NO...
NO. NOT
THAT.

THE DEVICES
IMPLANTED IN MY
MIND ARE...WELL...MY
LAST GIFT TO THE
HULK.

WHEN I
INEVITABLY DIE, HULK
WILL LIVE ON FOREVER,
TORMENTING ANY SOUL HE
COMES ACROSS. THE NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVES GIVE ME ONE FINAL
CHANCE TO HAVE HIM DIE
ALONG WITH ME. MAYBE,
JUST MAYBE, IT'LL
WORK.

MAYBE HE'LL
BE SEPARATED INTO
ENOUGH TINY PIECES OVER
FAR ENOUGH DISTANCES
THAT... WELL, YOU GET IT. I
KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR
YOU TO UNDERSTAND
NOW...



...YOU'LL JUST
HAVE TO TRUST ME--
THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH
MORE DESTRUCTIVE INSIDE
ME, MORE THAN YOU COULD
EVER IMAGINE. I REALLY
SHOULD GO.

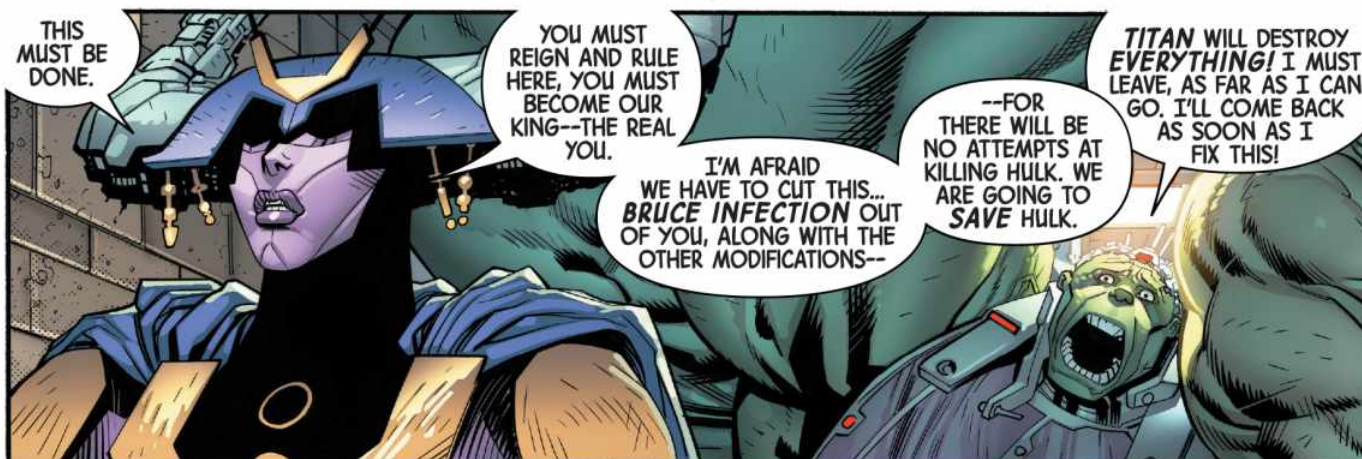


HE'S GONE
MAD. PAVE, BRUTAL,
APPREHEND HIM.



SORRY, HULK.
I HAVE TO DO
THIS--FOR THE
GOOD OF OUR
PEOPLE.







THE STRANGE ACADEMY, NEW ORLEANS.

OKAY, NOW
TRY IT WITHOUT
THE WAND. SUCH
UNNECESSARY
LITTLE STICKS...

HMMM, I
SEE. OKAY, CLASS
DISMISSED.

DOCTOR
STRANGE, I KNOW YOU
TOLD ME NOT TO INTERRUPT
YOU DURING A CLASS, BUT
DOC SAMSON IS ON THE
COMM TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
HE SAYS IT'S EXTREMELY
URGENT.



LEONARD! LONG
TIME NO S--WAIT,
SASQUATCH?!

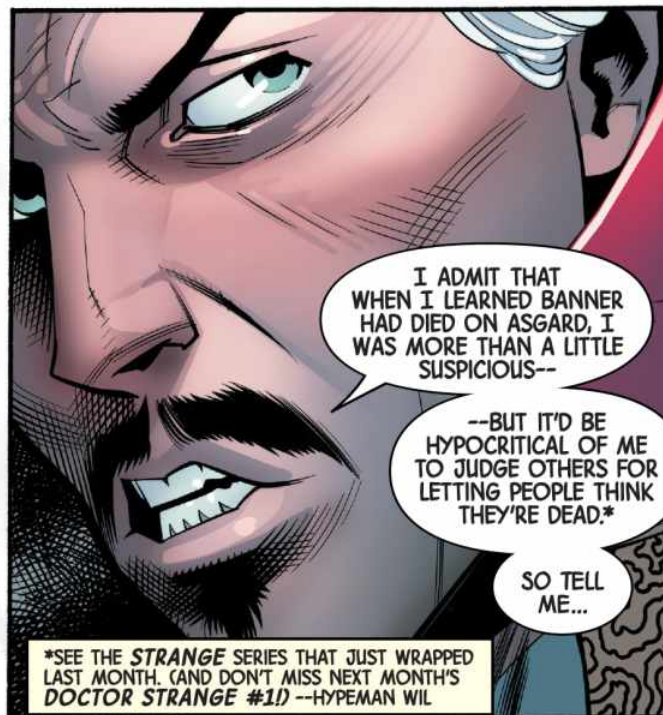
NO, STEPHEN,
IT IS LEONARD.
SASQUATCH AND I
GOT STUCK IN EACH
OTHER'S BODIES--

--BUT THAT'S A
LONG STORY* AND
I'VE GOT SOMETHING
TO TELL YOU THAT
CAN'T WAIT.

THIS
MIGHT BE A BIT OF
A SHOCK...BUT BRUCE
BANNER IS ALIVE. I'VE
BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
HIM FOR A WHILE
NOW.

HE FINALLY
SENT COORDINATES
TO HIS WHEREABOUTS,
AND HE NEEDS
OUR HELP.

*SEE IMMORTAL HULK #40. --WIL



I ADMIT THAT
WHEN I LEARNED BANNER
HAD DIED ON ASGARD, I
WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE
SUSPICIOUS--

--BUT IT'D BE
HYPOCRITICAL OF ME
TO JUDGE OTHERS FOR
LETTING PEOPLE THINK
THEY'RE DEAD.*

SO TELL
ME...

*SEE THE STRANGE SERIES THAT JUST WRAPPED
LAST MONTH. (AND DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S
DOCTOR STRANGE #11) --HYPEMAN WIL



"...WHAT HAS BANNER
GOTTEN HIMSELF
INTO THIS TIME?"

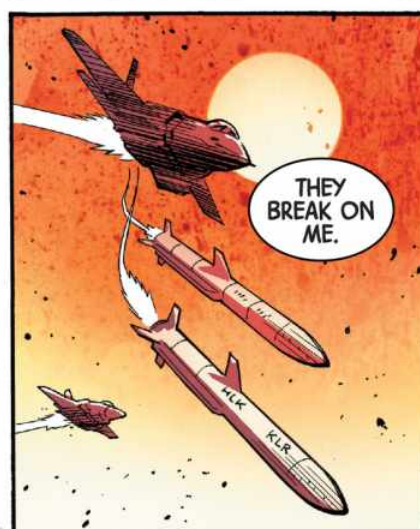
ARRRGHHH!
STOP!





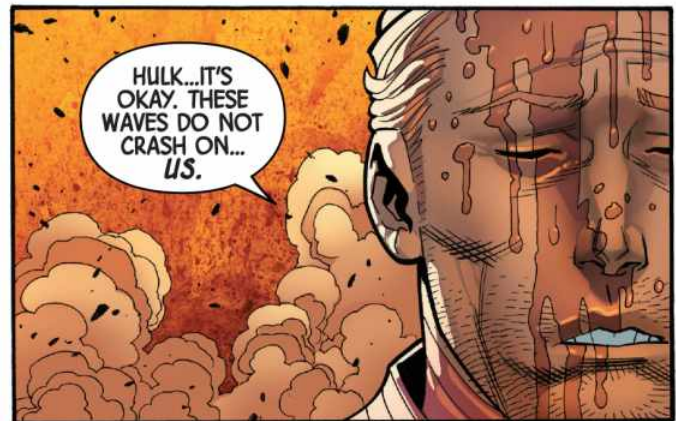
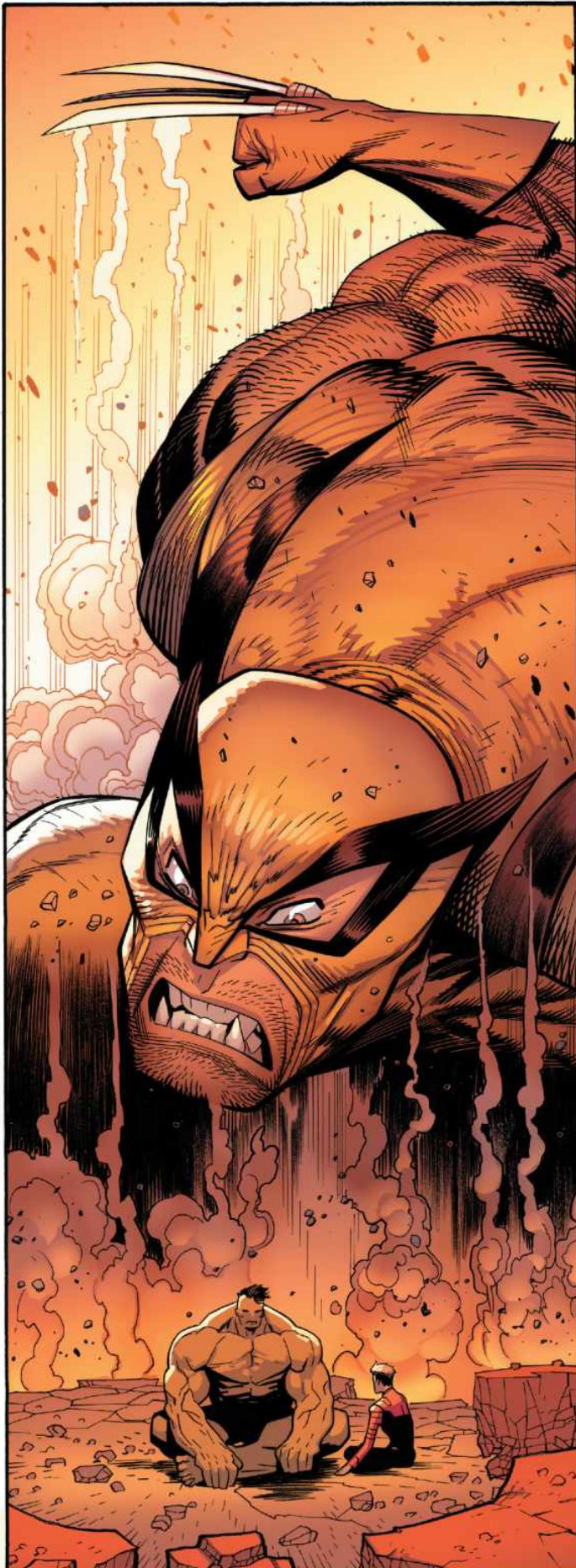
STAGE ONE:







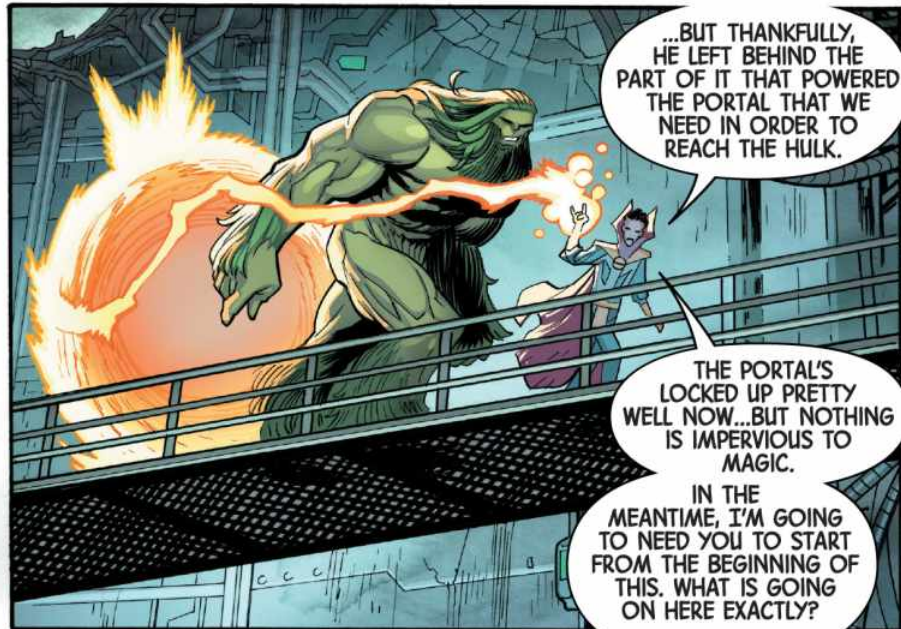
STAGE THREE:





STARK LAB, WUNDAGORE.

SO APPARENTLY
TONY CONVERTED
THE DEAD CELESTIAL HE
WAS STORING HERE INTO HIS
LATEST HULKBUSTER ARMOR
AND FLEW IT OFF INTO SPACE...



...BUT THANKFULLY,
HE LEFT BEHIND THE
PART OF IT THAT POWERED
THE PORTAL THAT WE
NEED IN ORDER TO
REACH THE HULK.

THE PORTAL'S
LOCKED UP PRETTY
WELL NOW...BUT NOTHING
IS IMPERVIOUS TO
MAGIC.

IN THE
MEANTIME, I'M GOING
TO NEED YOU TO START
FROM THE BEGINNING OF
THIS. WHAT IS GOING
ON HERE EXACTLY?



YES, WELL, THERE IS A PROGRAM
BRUCE CONSTRUCTED IN HIS MIND
WHERE WE ARE LINKED THROUGH
CERTAIN FREQUENCIES NO
MATTER WHERE HE GOES
ON HIS TRAVELS.

I THINK
THAT EVER SINCE HE
COMPARTMENTALIZED
PIECES OF HIS BRAIN INTO
THAT INTRICATE MIND PALACE,
IT'S OPENED UP SOME
TRAUMA IN WAYS HE'S
NEVER EXPERIENCED
BEFORE.

WHICH IS WHY
HE HIRED ME AS A
PSYCHIATRIST TO KEEP
HIM **SANE** THROUGHOUT--
BUT IT'S ONLY GONE
DOWNHILL, IT
SEEMS.

THERE IS AN
ENTITY LURKING
INSIDE HIM--IT SEEMS TO
HAVE TAKEN OVER. I'VE BEEN
ASKING HIM FOR A WHILE TO TELL
ME WHO HELPED HIM WITH THE
MIND ALTERATIONS SO WE
COULD GET IT REVERSED.

BUT
HE REFUSED
TO SHARE THAT
INFO--UNTIL I
RECEIVED THE
PRE-WRITTEN SOS
MESSAGE HE
JUST SENT
ME.



I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D CREATE
THE MIND PALACE FOR HIM--YOU
WANTED TO HELP HIM BE IN CONTROL
OF THE HULK AND OF
HIMSELF.

BUT I THINK
THE EXPERIMENT
BACKFIRED. YOU REALLY
NEED TO **DISMANTLE**
THE MIND PALACE--BRING
THINGS BACK TO
WHATEVER NORMALITY
HE HAD BEFORE.



ME! I HONESTLY HAD
NOTHING TO DO WITH
THIS. I'VE HEARD FROM A
SOURCE THAT THE MAGIC
USED ON BRUCE WAS
SOMETHING UNKNOWN.
SOMETHING ANCIENT
AND POWERFUL.

I'LL SEE
WHAT I CAN
DO. I NEED
ANSWERS.



WE NEED TO HELP
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE. I'M GOING IN.

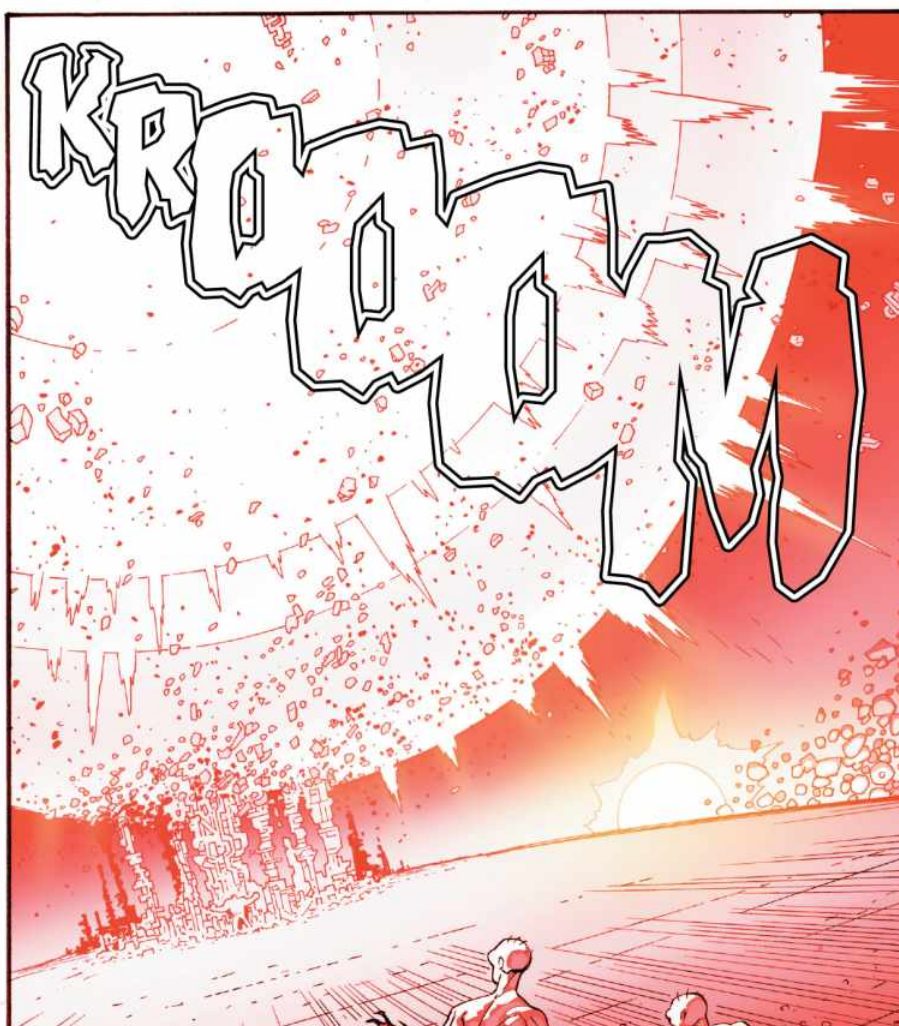


STAGE NINE:





STAGE *:



NEXT:



TITAN TAKEOVER!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WRITE US AT
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
MARK YOUR LETTER "OKAY TO PRINT!"

